

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 164807

62

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-03 ACDA-10 AID-05 TRSE-00

SS-15 NSC-05 OMB-01 L-03 H-02 /082 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:TCAROLAN/HLK

APPROVED BY NEA/ARN - A. R. DAY

NEA/IAI:WSMITH (SUBS)

----- 036595

P R 122023Z JUL 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS STATE 164807

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, US, JO

SUBJECT: NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE RE SALE OF MODERN AIR
DEFENSE SYSTEM TO JORDAN

1. NEW YORK TIMES REPORTED JULY 12 THAT FORD ADMINISTRATION HAS INFORMED CONGRESS OF ITS INTENTION TO SELL JORDAN MODERN AIR-DEFENSE SYSTEM COSTING APPROXIMATELY DOLLARS 350 MILLION, INCLUDING 14 HAWK BATTERIES AT DOLLARS 260 MILLION, 8 VULCAN BATTERIES AT DOLLARS 90 MILLION, AND 300 RED-EYE MISSILES AT DOLLARS 4 MILLION. PAPER CLAIMED ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS HAD EARLIER TOLD NEWSMEN AND ISRAELIS THAT PRICE OF TOTAL PACKAGE WOULD AMOUNT TO NO MORE THAN DOLLARS 100 MILLION. IT SAID THERE HAS BEEN NO EXPLANATION OF WHY JORDAN ARMS DEAL HAS "BURGEONED" IN SIZE.

2. TIMES ALSO CLAIMED PROPOSED SALE IS EVOKING CONSIDERABLE CONCERN FROM CONGRESSIONAL FIGURES -- NOTABLY UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 164807

SENATOR CLIFFORD CASE WHO REPORTEDLY HAS CALLED FOR HEARINGS TO DETERMINE WHETHER IT SHOULD BE PERMITTED, AND REP. JONATHAN BINGHAM WHO SAID HE AND OTHER CONGRESSMEN WOULD INTRODUCE RESOLUTION JULY 14 TO KILL THE SALE.

PAPER REPORTED SENATOR CASE AS EXPRESSING PARTICULAR CONCERN OVER "RATHER LARGE" NUMBER OF HAWK MISSILES INVOLVED AND FACT THEY WOULD BE "MOBILE AND NOT FIXED IN PLACE". CASE ALLEGEDLY REGARDS SUCH HAWKS AS USABLE BY "ADVANCING GROUND FORCES". HE ALSO REPORTEDLY UPSET BY FACT THAT ADMINISTRATION'S NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS DID NOT MENTION SALE OF "HIGHLY PORTABLE" RED-EYES, WHICH IN HIS VIEW "MIGHT FALL INTO HANDS OF TERRORISTS IN ME". BINGHAM IS QUOTED AS OPPOSING SALE BECAUSE "IT IS SO MUCH LARGER THAN FIRST INDICATED BY THE ADMINISTRATION" AND BECAUSE ITS "SIZE AND STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS ARE FRIGHTENING".

3. TIMES NOTED THAT ISRAELIS HAVE ALSO BEEN COMPLAINING PRIVATELY ABOUT THE SALE, ADDING "THEIR SUPPORTERS IN WASHINGTON WERE ON THE PHONE TODAY TO PASS THE WORD ABOUT THE CONTEMPLATED ACTION". PAPER WENT ON TO NOTE THAT JORDANIANS HAVE BEEN SEEKING UP-TO-DATE AIR-DEFENSE SYSTEM FOR MANY YEARS AND TO QUOTE KING HUSSEIN AS HAVING INDICATED LACK OF SUCH DEFENSE WAS ONE REASON FOR JORDAN'S REFUSAL TO PARTICIPATE DIRECTLY IN OCTOBER WAR. IT CLAIMED USG BEGAN TO GIVE SERIOUS ATTENTION TO GOJ REQUEST FOR AIR-DEFENSE EQUIPMENT ONLY AFTER LAST YEAR'S RABAT SUMMIT MEETING SHOWED KING HUSSEIN HAD "LOST CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE AND HAD TO GIVE UP RIGHT TO NEGOTIATE FOR WEST BANK TO PLO". ARTICLE RECALLED THAT WHITE HOUSE MEMORANDUM JUSTIFYING THIS SALE TO CONGRESS HAD ASSERTED IT "WOULD BE IN US NATIONAL INTEREST, STRENGTHENING HUSSEIN'S INTERNAL POSITION AND REINFORCING JORDAN'S POLICIES OF MODERATION" AT TIME WHEN JORDAN IS EXPERIENCING HEAVY EXTERNAL POLITICAL PRESSURE. ROBINSON

UNCLASSIFIED

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIR DEFENSE, MILITARY SALES, PRESS COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE164807
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA/ARN:TCAROLAN/HLK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750241-1229
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197507105/baaaapdu.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hartledg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 JUL 2003 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <20 JAN 2004 by hartledg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 971016
Subject: n/a
TAGS: MASS, JO, US, NEW YORK TIMES
To: AMMAN INFO TEL AVIV
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006